

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 AF-08

ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IOE-00 SSO-00

OES-06 NASA-02 INRE-00 /087 W

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O 111535Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3870

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23335

NESCO/AIDAC

FOR AID/IDC FOR WILHELM

NASA HQ/CODE I/ WILLIAMS

USIA/IOP/P HAWKINS

AMEMBASST RABAT PASS USAID/BRECHER

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PASS USAID/KENN MORRIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: AIDSAT DEMONSTRATION FOR CASTARAB AUGUST 23.

1. UNESCO SECRETARIAT HAS PREPARED SEVERAL ILLUSTRATIVE QUESTIONS WHICH THE CASTARAB PANEL MIGHT WANT TO RAISE IN THEIR DISCUSSION WITH THE U.S. PANEL FOLLOWING THE FILM PORTION OF AIDSAT DEMONSTRATION FOR CASTARAB AUGUST 23. ORIGINAL QUESTIONS WERE IN FRENCH. TRANSLATION AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. REMOTE SENSING BY SATTELITE WILL MORE AND MORE CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT WORK TOOL IN THE STUDY OF RESOURCES (MINERALS, WATER, FORESTS, SOIL,CULTIVATION ETC.) AND IN THE FORECASTING OF CERTAIN DISASTERS (SEA POLLUTION, RIVER POLLUTION, FLOODS, ETC.) NOT TO SPEAK

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OF THE PRESENT FUNDAMENTAL ROLE WHICH METEOROLOGICAL

SATELLITES PLAY IN WEATHER FORECASTING. THE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE MOSTLY LOCATED IN AN ARID OR SEMI-ARID ZONE WHERE THE CLOUD COVER IS THIN AND OFFERS A PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE FIELD OF OBSERVATION TO OBSERVATION SATELLITES. A CERTAIN NUMBER OF QUESTIONS COULD BE ASKED - PARTICULARLY INTERESTING TO THE ARAB COUNTRIES, ON THE SUBJECT OF PROBLEMS APT TO LEND THEMSELVES TO A STUDY BY REMOTE SENSING BY SATELLITE AS WELL AS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE CONDITIONS AND METHODS OF SUCH AN UTILIZATION.

PROBLEMS.

1. THE ADVANCE OF THE DESERTS IS MUCH DISCUSSED, AND IN PARTICULAR THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ADVANCE OF THE SAHARA. WOULD THE SATELLITES BE ABLE TO SHOW THIS ADVANCE, IF IT IS REAL, AND TO MEASURE IT?

2. CASES HAVE BEEN CITED WHERE REMOTE SENSING HAS ALLOWED THE DETECTION OF UNKNOWN FRESH WATER RESOURCES. IT HAS ALSO BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN CERTAIN CASES, IN PARTICULAR BY CERTAIN STUDIES OF UNESCO ON THE NORTH SAHARA AND THE CHADIAN BASIN THAT THE DESERT CAN HIDE IMPORTANT RESOURCES OF SUBTERRANEAN WATER. WOULD THE SATELLITES BE ABLE TO LOCATE AND TO EVALUATE THESE UNDERGROUND WATERS?

3. SINCE THE SATELLITES PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF A COUNTRY'S GEOLOGY, WOULD THEY ALSO LEAD TO A BETTER DETECTION OF EVENTUAL MINERAL RESOURCES?

4. THE PROGRAM MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) TRIES TO DEFINE THE BEST ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT POSSIBLE OF GRAZING LANDS IN ARID AND SI-ARID ZOHES. COULD SATELLITES CONTRIBUTE TO THESE STUDIES AND CAN THEY, ON A PRACTICAL LEVEL, GIVE USEFUL INFORMATION ON LOCATION AND CONDITION OF PASTURES OR ON ZONES SUBJECT TO FIRES?

5. WOULD THE SATELLITES ASSIST IN LOCATING AND DETERMINING SEA POLLUTION AND FACILITATING THE FIGHT AGAINST

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SUCH POLLUTION, ESPECIALLY POLLUTION BY HYDROCARBONS.

6. SATELLITES FURNISH VALUABLE INFORMATION ON WEATHER FORECASTING 2 OR 3 DAYS IN ADVANCE. COULD ONE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD HELP TO PREDICT PERIODS OF DROUGHT SUCH AS HAVE RECENTLY AFFECTED MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES?

7. CAN ONE UTILIZE SATELLITE PICTURES TO HELP IN

FIGHTING DESERT LOCUSTS AS WELL AS AGAINST AGRICULTURAL
SICKNESSES, SUCH AS THE COTTON-WORM?

CONDITIONS AND METHODS.

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1. IT SEEMS TO BE EVIDENT THAT A SATELLITE
ALONE CANNOT MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE EVERYTHING
THAT GOES ON ON THE GROUND AND THAT ITS IMAGES MUST BE
COMPLEMENTED BY GROUND VERIFICATIONS. WHAT IS THE
QUANTITY OF WORK IMPLIED BY SUCH VERIFICATION? IS
THERE A DANGER THAT WITH INSUFFICIENT VERIFICATION OF
SATELLITE IMAGES THIS WOULD LEAD TO ERRONEOUS INTER-
PRETATIONS? THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS DIFFICUL-
TIES WHICH LIMIT THE UTILIZATION OF REMOTE SENSING.

2. FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS MOST COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN
COVERED BY AERIAL PHOTOS TAKEN FROM AIRPLANES.
WHICH SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES DOES THE SATELLITE HAVE
COMPARED TO SUCH AERIAL PHOTOS?

3. WHAT DOES ONE REALLY SEE ON THE SATELLITE PICTURES?
WHAT IS THE MINIMUM SIZE OF OBJECTS THAT CAN BE OBSER-
VED? CAN ONE REALLY DETERMINE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
TWO ZONES OF DIFFERENT CULTIVATION?
4. HOW CAN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REALLY UTILIZE THE
RESULTS OF THESE MODERN TOOLS AND WHICH ARE THE NECESSA-
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RY QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSONNEL WHO ARE TO INTERPRET AND
UTILIZE THESE IMAGES?
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